

**Leprosy in Hill Districts**

10480. DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of leprosy cases in the hill Districts of Almora and Pithoragarh respectively in 1978;

(b) the steps being taken to eradicate leprosy from these Districts; and

(c) whether any Central assistance has been given for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMEN-TARY AFFAIRS AND LABOUR (SHRI RAVINDRA VARMA): (a) The figure regarding the number of leprosy cases in the hill Districts of Almora and Pithoragarh for 1978 are not available but according to surveys done earlier the estimated number of cases in these two Districts is 2625 and 470 respectively.

(b) While eradication of leprosy from these Districts may take time, one Leprosy Control Unit at Balwakothe, one Urban Leprosy Centre at Pithoragarh and one Urban Leprosy Centre at Almora have been established to control the disease.

(c) Yes. Central assistance was provided under the National Leprosy Control Programme to the units established during the 5th Five Year Plan, i.e. for the Urban Leprosy Centres at Pithoragarh and Almora.

**House Building Advance for Railway Staff**

10481. SHRI SOMJIBHAI DAMOR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the amount provided by the Railways during the last three years for house building advance for Railway Staff, year-wise;

(b) the year-wise position of zonal railways;

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(c) Division-wise and workshop-wise position;

(d) how many Railway staff have applied and how many of them granted the advance Division-wise and workshop-wise;

(e) how many staff of Class III and IV were granted advance, Division-wise and workshop-wise;

(f) how many staff of SC/ST have applied and were granted the house building advance; and

(g) procedure for disbursement of funds on Railways, Division-wise and workshop-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SHEO NARAIN): (a) to (g). Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

**Special Programme for Family Welfare Programme**

10482. PROF. SAMAR GUHA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) financial allocation made in 1977-78 and 1978-79 including propaganda made for family welfare;

(b) break-up of the expenditure made for family welfare propaganda in (i) urban and (ii) rural areas;

(c) whether the prevailing practice of polygamy among some communities against the objective of family welfare;

(d) if so, will Government take legal measure against the practice of polygamy; and

(e) if not, the reasons thereabout?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMEN-TARY AFFAIRS AND LABOUR (SHRI RAVINDRA VARMA): (a) Al-

location made for Family Welfare